

1-19-2001

2001 Founders Day

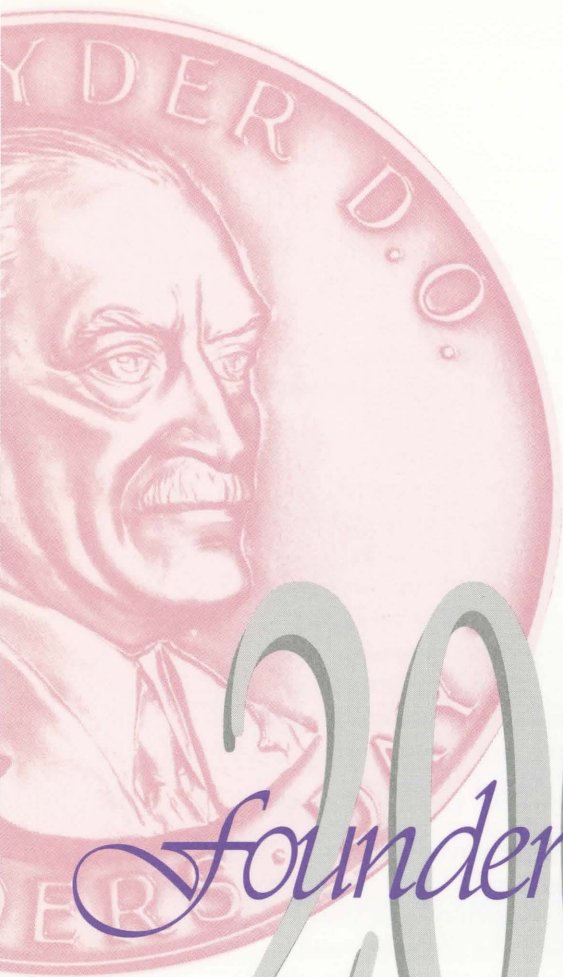
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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2001

Founders Day

Assembly
January 19, 2001

Our Founders

The annual observance of
Founders Day honors the founders of
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine:

Oscar John Snyder, DO and
Mason Wiley Pressly, DO.

Dr. Snyder, who "put the cause of
osteopathic medicine above personal considerations,"
was the College's first president.

He remained with PCOM for 42 years as an adviser
and member of the board of trustees.

Dr. Snyder was instrumental in obtaining the
Commonwealth's legal recognition of the
College and the osteopathic profession through
establishing the high standards of
osteopathic medical education.

Dr. Pressly, a Presbyterian minister
and well-known orator, was PCOM's first teacher.

He remained on the faculty until 1904,
teaching physiology, the philosophy and
principles of osteopathy, hygiene and dietetics.

He was PCOM's first secretary and
treasurer, and the *de facto* dean until 1902.

Dr. Pressly founded *The Philadelphia Journal of Osteopathy*
to promote osteopathic medicine in
Philadelphia and wrote the AOA's first constitution.

PROGRAM

Introductions

Kenneth J. Veit, DO '76
Dean

Invocation

Carol L. Henwood, DO '83
Alumni Association President

The Pledge of Allegiance

Patrick J. McHugh (DO '02)
Student Government Association President

Welcome

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and CEO

Introduction of the

Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal Recipient

Kenneth J. Veit, DO '76 and Patrick J. McHugh (DO '02)

Address by Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal Recipient

Constance Gasda (DO '01)

Introduction of the

O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal Recipient

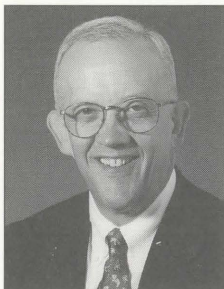
Matthew Schure, PhD

Address by O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal Recipient

Ronald R. Blanck, DO '67

Benediction

Galen S. Young, Sr., DO '35
Chancellor



O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal Recipient
Ronald R. Blanck, DO
Class of 1967

When Ronald R. Blanck, DO '67, volunteered for military service as a general medical officer in Vietnam, he never imagined that he would someday become the highest ranking physician in the United States Armed Forces – Army Surgeon General and Commander of the United States Army Medical Command.

The 2001 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal recipient discovered his passion for medicine when he volunteered as an ambulance driver in Ephrata, PA during summer vacation from Juniata College. "I loved working in the ER and hanging around the wards of our little community hospital," he recalls. "I decided then and there that medicine was absolutely what I wanted to do."

In his senior year of college, he switched his major from engineering to pre-med and applied to PCOM at the suggestion of his family doctor, Harold Finkel, DO '46.

Dr. Blanck credits PCOM with providing him the broad base of knowledge he needed to pursue the variety of opportunities that came his way. "The camaraderie and teamwork I experienced at PCOM still influence my interactions with people to this day," he notes.

In 1968, after graduation from PCOM and an internship at Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital, he went to the draft board and volunteered for service in Vietnam. When he returned to the States a year later, he was accepted for an internal medicine residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital – just the beginning of a 32-year military career full of distinguished achievements.

Now retired from the U.S. Army, Dr. Blanck was the first DO to become surgeon general of any of the U.S. commissioned services. Always a pioneer, he was also the first assistant dean for student affairs when the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine was established in 1976. He also served as the first osteopathic chief, department of medicine, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, the Army's second largest medical teaching center.

Recipient of the Bronze Star and Distinguished Service Medals among many military honors, Dr. Blanck served as Army Commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and North Atlantic Health Service Support Area. He commanded two U.S. Army hospitals in Germany – Berlin and Frankfurt – while the Berlin Wall was still in place. He served as physician to notable patients such as former first lady Mamie Eisenhower and Chief Justice William O. Douglas. And he met privately with foreign leaders such as Egyptian President Mubarek during Middle East peace initiatives.

Among his many accomplishments, he is especially proud of his efforts to help Gulf War veterans cope with various illnesses. Dr. Blanck spearheaded the founding of the Gulf War Health Center at Walter Reed Army Hospital for which he was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars with the Armed Forces Distinguished Award.

Dr. Blanck also values his work with students. One of his most meaningful awards was the Young at Heart Award he received from the American Medical Association Young Physicians' Section. "I was very moved that the students were so appreciative of my mentoring and teaching efforts," he recalls.

In the military, Dr. Blanck's propensity to put people first became legendary. "One might expect that a three-star general in charge of a \$6 billion global organization would be too busy for troops," wrote Lt. Col. Jim Diehl, USMC, in honoring Dr. Blanck upon his retirement. "This one quietly slips out of town on holidays and visits his soldiers in places like Guatemala or Nicaragua where they are doing their nation's bidding in humanitarian work . . . then he writes about them in his personal monthly e-mail newsletter to the troops."

Retired from the military since July 2000, Dr. Blanck is far from retired from medicine. He has taken on a new challenge as president of the University of North Texas (UNT) Health Science Center at Fort Worth which trains osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, scientists and other health professionals through its Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Public Health. The center also includes six Institutes for Discovery conducting leading-edge research and a 110-member physician group practice managing 188,000 Fort Worth-area patient visits yearly.

"It fascinates me to see the medical world moving closer to the holistic approach that PCOM and osteopathic medicine have always espoused," he comments. "I've always been proud to be part of the DO philosophy and heritage."

Dr. Blanck and his wife Donna have two daughters, Jennifer and Susan. "So few people have it all, but Ronald does – knowledge, vision, leadership skills and people skills," says his wife.

For all those qualities, plus his pioneering spirit and achievements that have brought honor and strength to the osteopathic medical profession, PCOM is proud to present its highest award, the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, to Ronald R. Blanck, DO.

Ronald R. Blanck, DO

Class of 1967, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Selected Curriculum Vitae

Professional Activities

President, University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth,
August 2000 - present

Surgeon General, U.S. Army and Commanding General, U.S. Army
Medical Command, 1996-2000

Distinguished Professor of Military Medicine, 1997

Commander, Walter Reed Army Medical Center and North Atlantic
Health Service Support Activity, 1992-1996

Commander, Frankfurt Army Regional Medical Center, 1988-1990

Commander, U.S. Army Hospital, Berlin, 1986-1988

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Uniformed Services University School
of Medicine, 1976-1979

Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, 1973

Fellow and Past Governor, American College of Physicians (FACP)

Member, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States

Member, American Osteopathic Association

Delegate, American Medical Association

Awards

Young at Heart Award, American Medical Association Young Physicians'
Section, 1996

Distinguished Public Service Award, Oklahoma College of Osteopathic
Medicine, 1993

Founders' Medal, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, 1991

Certificate of Merit, Alumni Association, PCOM, 1991

Guest Editor - Osteopathic Annals, 1981

John Shaw Billings Award, Association of Military Surgeons of the United
States, 1976

Military Honors

Distinguished Service Medal, 1996

Joint Commendation Medal, 1985

Order of Military Medical Merit, 1982

Defense Superior Service Medal, 1979

Bronze Star, 1969



Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal Recipient

Constance Gasda

Class of 2001

When most people say "why?" Connie Gasda says "why not?" Driven by a sense of adventure and her passion for people, Gasda finds her greatest rewards in helping to make things better for others. During the past four years at PCOM, she has helped fellow students navigate the rough waters of internships and residencies, worked to enhance curriculum and made award-winning presentations in osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM).

Gasda entered PCOM in 1997 after two years as a science teacher on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. When her love of medicine won out over her interest in conservation biology and environmental science, she applied to PCOM. "The osteopathic philosophy appealed to me from the start," she says.

Gasda was a student presenter at the American Academy of Osteopathy's A. Hollis Wolf Case Competition in 1999 and 2000, winning second- and first-place prizes, respectively. With her first-place presentation on treating and preventing work-related injuries, she earned an opportunity to study with a French osteopath in Paris this spring. Through her success and enthusiasm, she has encouraged other PCOM students to enter the competition.

As a PCOM student government representative, Gasda has been a member of the curriculum committee and its "Integrating OMM" sub-committee, working to emphasize OMM skills.

Recently, Gasda became chairwoman of the internship/residency advisory committee, single-handedly developing a PCOM Web site link with answers to the most frequently asked questions about rotations, internships and residencies. "Students really don't understand how the process works or what to expect," she remarks. "I felt our committee had to do something to help. One student was so happy with the Web site that he hugged me!"

A clerkship group leader, Gasda also served as a PCOM "Bridging the Gaps" mentor, developing and instructing an aerobic exercise program for urban elementary school children. In addition, she has volunteered for the Cambria Street Healthcare Center health fair and PCOM blood pressure drive.

A Sigma Sigma Phi Honors Society member and editor, Gasda has won numerous scholarships, including the Angus Gordon Cathie, DO, Nicholas S. Nicholas, DO, Board of Trustees, and Drinking Water and Disease Conference Scholarships.

To honor her leadership and enthusiasm for helping others and enhancing medical education through positive change, the College proudly presents Constance Gasda (DO '01) with the Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal.

O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal

The O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, presented in memory of the co-founder of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, is the College's highest award to recognize leadership and service to the osteopathic profession and to the College.

1953 David S. B. Pennock, MD, DO*	1978 Foster C. True, DO '22*
1954 Margaret H. Jones, DO*	1979 Frank E. Gruber, DO '26*
1955 Chester D. Swope, DO*	1980 Leo C. Wagner, DO '26*
1956 Russell C. McCaughan, DO*	1981 R. MacFarlane Tilley, DO '23*
1958 Phil R. Russell, DO*	1982 M. Carman Pettapiece, DO '32*
1959 Ira W. Drew, DO '11*	1983 George H. Guest, DO '36*
1960 C. Paul Snyder, DO '10*	1984 Thomas M. Rowland, Jr., BS, LLD (hon.), DSc (hon.)*
1961 James M. Eaton, DO '28*	1985 Galen S. Young, Sr., DO '35
1962 J. Ernest Leuzinger, DO '24*	1986 David Heilig, DO '44*
1963 H. Walter Evans, DO '17*	1987 W. Kenneth Riland, DO '36*
1964 Paul T. Lloyd, DO '23*	1988 Richard S. Koch, DO '38
1966 Angus G. Cathie, DO '31*	1989 Ruth E. Purdy, DO '50
1967 Carlton Street, DO '24*	1990 Morton E. Terry, DO '45
1968 Edwin H. Cressman, DO '26*	1991 Arnold Gerber, DO '40
1969 Edgar O. Holden, DO '22*	1992 Emanuel Fliegelman, DO '42*
1970 Frederic H. Barth, BS, LLD (hon.)*	1993 Robert L. Meals, DO '56
1971 Joseph F. Py, DO '26*	1994 Fairman L. Denlinger, DO '53
1972 George W. Northup, DO '39*	1995 Lester Eisenberg, DO '38*
1973 William F. Daiber, DO '28*	1996 Albert F. D'Alonzo, DO '56
1974 Herman Kohn, DO '27*	1997 Frieda O. Vickers, DO '39*
1975 William S. Spaeth, DO '25*	1998 Robert M. Fogel, DO '58
1976 Mortimer J. Sullivan, DO '21*	1999 Nicholas C. Pedano, DO '61
1977 A. Aline Swift, DO '34*	2000 Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO '59
	2001 Ronald R. Blanck, DO '67

Deceased*

Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal

The Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medal is presented by PCOM to the student who is recognized by students, faculty and the administration as "Student DO of the Year," an award which is part of an annual tradition at each osteopathic medical school nationwide. The recipient is honored for outstanding achievement and service to the College, the community and the osteopathic profession and is selected by representatives of the overall College community.

1999	Dana Hamilton, DO '99
2000	Alison Leff, DO '00
2001	Constance Gasda (DO '01)